

**Rhode Island Livestock Welfare and Care Standards Advisory Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**December 15, 2015 @ 1:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

Scott Marshall, Chair, State Vet  
Louis Vinagro,  
Christie Smith, Potter League  
Rick Rhodes, URI  
Tricia Quest(DEM)  
Ken Ayers(DEM)  
Joseph Masino(DEM)  
Joe Warzycha, RISPCA

Late Arrival: Secretary Lyn Spinella, RI Farm Bureau

**Members Absent:**

Debora Bresch, ASPCA

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Chairman Marshall.

**Minutes:** Motion by Dr. Rhodes to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Warzycha seconded. Motion passed.

Lyn Spinella arrived at 1:25 p.m.

**Old Business:** A discussion took place regarding the Humane Society of the US and their crusade for enhanced battery cages for egg laying hens. A meeting had taken place with Matthew Dominguez of HSUS, Ken Ayars and Dr. Marshall the result of which was the obvious conclusion that there was no hope of a position compromise. It was noted that Rhode Island standards are very high for egg laying hens and actually exceed national standards. The suggestion was made that the standards set by this Council would be best served if they were made into regulations.

Dr. Rhodes moved to present the standards of this Council to DEM with a request to promulgate them into regulations with the provision that the Council have the opportunity to review the rules and regulations prior to final implementation and be empowered with the right to revise the regulations, if needed. Mr. Warzycha seconded. Motion passed. 6-0

Ken Ayars left the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Dr. Rhodes suggested that Dr. Marshall pen a letter to the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding battery cages with the facts of the issue. A second letter should be sent to the legislators reiterating the Council's willingness to assist with any issues regarding animal welfare going forward. Ms. Smith moved to approve. Mr. Warzycha seconded. Motion passed. 6-0

**New Business:** None.

**Next Meeting:** A date for the next meeting would be set after a draft of the regulations was available.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn A. Spinella  
Secretary